

## **REMARKS**

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement of allowable subject matter contained in claims 4-8, 12-14, 19, 24-26, 31 and 33. The claims are amended, and new claims are added to accept the allowable subject matter as follows:

Claim 4 is written in independent form. Claim 8 is claims 2 and 8 combined. Claim 12 is claims 9 and 12 combined. Claim 13 is claims 9 and 13 combined. Similarly, amended claim 14 is claims 9 and 14 combined. Claim 15 is amended to depend from allowable claim 12, and claim 18 is amended to delete its dependency from cancelled claim 10. Claims 19-20 are amended to delete their dependency from cancelled claims 9-11, and add dependency from new claim 39.

Claim 24 is claims 21 and 24 combined. Claim 25 is claims 21 and 25 combined. Similarly, amended claim 26 is claims 21 and 26 combined. Claim 27 now depends from allowable claim 24. Claim 30 is amended to remove the dependency from cancelled claim 22. Claims 31-33 are amended to delete their dependency from cancelled claims 21-23, and add dependency from allowable claim 24 and new claim 42.

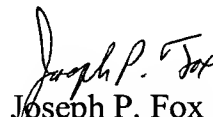
New claims 34-38 correspond to original claims 3-7, but depend from allowable claim 8. New claim 39 is claims 11 and 12 combined. New claim 40 is claims 11 and 13 combined, and new claim 41 is claims 11 and 14 combined.

New claim 42 is claims 23 and 24 combined. New claim 43 is claims 23 and 25 combined, and new claim 44 is claims 23 and 26 combined.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By   
Joseph P. Fox  
Registration No. 41,760

July 26, 2004

300 South Wacker Drive  
Suite 2500  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
Telephone: 312.360.0080  
Facsimile: 312.360.9315  
Customer No. 24978